Tea	—	125 gms per head subject to a maximum of 500 gms per family per month.
Pulses	—	1250 gms per head subject to a maximum of 5 kgs per family per month.
Salt	—	1 kg per family (of four or more persons) per month.
Milk	—	1 litre per family per day.
Bread	—	1 loaf per family per day.

Surrender of Assam insurgents

4762. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a record of 532 insurgents belonging to various
insurgent outfits, surrendered before the Assam Governor on 4th April, 2000;

(b) whether any understanding for talks for return to the national mainstream by the insurgents has been reached; if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether similar talks with respect to militants in Kashmir and other parts are also being held; and

(d) the steps being taken to secure an end to insurgency by the misguided youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that 532 insurgents belonging to various insurgent outfits surrendered before the Governor of Assam on 4th April, 2000 at Sibsagar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During his visit to J and K on 26-27 July, 1997 the then Prime Minister had an appeal to the misguided youth of the State, who have joined the militant ranks, to five up their guns, and said that the Government was prepared to have unconditional talks with them, to enable them to rejoin the mainstream. The Government is committed to the said offer of talks, within the constitutional frame work.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to bring law and order situation in Assam under control. These include, *inter alia,* deployment of para-military forces and army in the Stales, coordinated action by Army, Para-

Military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made. The Government has also given thrust on speedy economic development and generation of employment opportunities in the North Eastern States.

Suspension of Anti-Insurgency Operation against BLTF

4763. SHRI G.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to contain and effectively curb insurgency in the North-East, Government had lately decided to suspend anti-insurgency operations against the Bodo Liberation Tigrcs;

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken to arrive at a truce with Bodos and other militant outfits active in the North-East; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) has suspended its operations against the Army, Para-Military Forces and State Police. Government has decided to suspend operations against the BLT following a statement of Union Home Minister in both the houses of Parliament on March 15, 2000.

(b) and (c) Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution. Bodo LiberationTiger (BLT) has come forward for peace talks abjuring the path of violence. Other militant outfits have not responded for talks within the parameters indicated.

Anomaly in Pay Scale of CFO

4764. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists an anomaly in pay scale of Chief Fire Officer, Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the last fourteen years;

(b) if so, how the anomaly has occurred and what are the anomalies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the A and N Administration has made